2008-04565/

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For Immediate Release
2007AE0036-000604
May 11, 2007

Ministry of Advanced Education

UNBC TEACHING AND LEARNING CENTRE OFFICIALLY OPENED

PRINCE GEORGE – Environmental planning is just one of a number of programs to be offered at the University of Northern B.C.'s new $31-million Teaching and Learning Centre, which was officially opened today, announced Advanced Education Minister Murray Coell.

"UNBC's environmental planning program provides students a first-hand look at today's issues, like sustainability, climate change, biodiversity, stewardship and urban sprawl," said Coell. "The Teaching and Learning Centre expands opportunities for students in the North to engage in programs like this and provides all students with greater access to programs and lab space at this campus."

The Teaching and Learning Centre will accommodate an additional 460 students and house 41 laboratories, eight classrooms, 11 study areas, 183 offices and a video conference room. Other programs offered at the centre include business, education, nursing, disability management, psychology, social work, physics and math.

"This spectacular building is providing us with the physical capacity to grow, especially in such popular programs as health sciences, education, business, and nursing," says UNBC president Don Cozzetto. "The Teaching and Learning Centre is one recent example of the government of British Columbia's continued support for UNBC and the university's effects on our community and region."

The Province provided $29 million and UNBC contributed $2 million to build the 8,547 square-metre Teaching and Learning Centre. The centre is part of more than $64 million in capital projects at UNBC since 2001, including $12-million for the Northern Health Sciences Centre and $2.8 million for the Geoffrey Weller Library.

"We are incredibly fortunate to have a world-class university like UNBC right here in Prince George," said Education Minister and Deputy Premier Shirley Bond. "On behalf of Prince George's MLAs Pat Bell, John Rustad and myself, it is a great honour to open the teaching and learning centre and fulfil our commitment to more student spaces in northern B.C."

Since 2001, the Province has provided more than $1 billion in new funding for capital projects on campuses across B.C., and has allocated almost $700 million more in capital funding by 2010 to support post-secondary education.

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